

(c) and (d) Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulations) Act, 1957 empowers the Central Government to enhance rate of royalty on coal and lignite after three years. However, it is not mandatory to revise these rates after every three years. The royalty rates are revised after taking into consideration the interests of all stakeholders and the overall economic scenario of the country.

Coal transportation by ex-servicemen

†870. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) since when the work of coal transportation are being allotted to the ex-servicemen by coal companies;
- (b) the total amount on account of haulage paid by Coal India to ex-servicemen;
- (c) whether Coal Transportation Act, 1979 needs to be reviewed;
- (d) whether a white paper on success/failure of the scheme will be issued by his Ministry;
- (e) if so, by when; and
- (f) if not, why no review was made over the last 25 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Year of allotment of coal transportation work to ex-servicemen by various subsidiaries of Coal India Limited as under:

Company	Year of allotment of work
Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL)	1998 (Work discontinued since March, 2003)
Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)	1982
Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)	1980
Western Coalfields Limited (WCL)	1992
South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)	1986
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL)	1981
Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL)	Not allotted

[†]Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The total amount paid by various subsidiaries of Coal India Limited to Ex-servicemen on account of haulage during the last three years is given below:

Company	(Rs. in Crores)		
	2005-06 (Provisional)	2004-05	2003-04
Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)	29.27	28.64	42.44
Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)	1.17	5.53	8.16
Western Coalfields Limited (WCL)	68.81	49.83	49.87
South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)	202.95	179.91	154.40
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL)	234.68	218.31	170.27
Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL)	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	536.88	482.22	425.14

(c) There is no such Act as "Coal Transportation Act, 1979" being administered by Ministry of Coal.

(d) At present, the Ministry of Coal has no intention to issue a white paper on the scheme of Coal Transportation by Ex-servicemen transport companies.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (d) above.

(f) The scheme of Coal Transportation by Ex-servicemen transport companies had started on the basis of discussions between erstwhile Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Defence in 1979. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard was signed between Coal India

Limited and Director General Resettlement, Ministry of Defence in April, 1993. The said scheme has been reviewed and a revised Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Coal India Limited and Director General Resettlement, Ministry of Defence in April, 1999.

Handing over Indian mines to foreign companies

**871. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:**

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering the proposal to handover some of the Indian mines to foreign companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the foreign companies have asked for special concessions to start mining operation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of the answer to part (a) above.

Annual demand and supply of coal

872. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that coal mining companies having firms supply with approved users can undertake mining coal blocks reserved for captive users;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the projections of annual demand and supply of coal for next 20-years and indigenous availability of coal in the country; and